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*Stated Meeting, June 21, 1861.*

Present, eleven members.

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE in the Chair.

Letters were read from Dr. Adam Sedgewick, dated Trinity College, Cambridge, May 1, and from Dr. John Curwen, dated Harrisburg, May 23, accepting membership.

A letter was read from Dr. George B. Wood, dated Naples, May 8, accepting his re-election as President; and another, dated Rome, May 31, respecting the *Accademia dei Lincei*, the name of which was, on motion, ordered to be placed on the list of corresponding Societies, to receive both the Transactions and Proceedings.

A letter was read from the Royal Geographical Society, dated London, March 22, acknowledging publications received.

A letter was read from the Smithsonian Institution, dated Washington, April 22, informing of publications transmitted.

A letter was read from Dr. Dunglison respecting an obituary notice of Professor Tucker.

Donations for the Library were received from the Bureau des Ponts et Chaussées, the Royal, Royal Astronomical, Royal Geographical, and Society of Arts, in London, the Royal Dublin Society, the American Association, the American Antiquarian Society, the Free Public Library of New Bedford, the Academy of Natural Sciences, Franklin Institute, Entomological Society, Pennsylvania Hospital, and Publishers of the Medical News, in Philadelphia, the Superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum at Harrisburg, the American Colonization Society, and Bureau of Topographical Engineers, at Washington, from Professor T. Sterry Hunt, of Montreal, and Professor H. D. Rogers, of Glasgow, Scotland.

Mr. Dubois offered for examination two remarkable specimens of current money.

## SPECIMENS OF JAPANESE COIN AND AUSTRIAN MONEY.

1. In Japan, the normal money of account is the *itzebu*, which in silver is a coin equal to one-third of a Mexican dollar, as near as may be. Our treaty stipulations with that country provided that Mexican dollars should be received from Americans in exchange for Japanese silver coins, by weight; a natural and just arrangement, assuming the quality of silver to be the same. It was necessary for our shippers to have Japanese coin to make purchases. Just at this juncture, a new coin made its appearance at *Hakodadi*, the port where American trade then chiefly centred, a coin not known to the regular series of Japanese money, and probably not yet known to the Japanese nation at large. It weighed as much as a half dollar, and in fact erred a little on the side of liberality. An American having a thousand dollars to exchange, would receive two thousand of these pieces under the treaty. But when he came to buy goods with them, he was told that their legal value was a half *itzebu*. They were, indeed, considerably larger than the whole *itzebu*, but such was the law of the land. In a word, a Japanese could *pay* them to an American at the rate of *two* to the dollar, but could only *receive* them at *six* to the dollar. This remarkable piece of political economy has caused our traders much annoyance. The piece here shown is the coin referred to.

2. The other specimen partakes still more largely of the *suggestive*. It is a paper bill issued by the Austrian Government, dated November 1, 1860, and is declared to be receivable at all public offices for *ten kreutzers*. This amount is equal to five cents of our money. But we are informed that this paper is at a discount of sixty per cent. against silver, so that its actual current value is only *two cents*. In fact, even the copper coin bears a high premium, as compared with these bills.

The following is the wording of the bill :

“ Wird für zehn (10) Kreuzer silberscheidemünze bei allen Zahlungen an öffentliche Cassen statt Barem angenommen. Wien. 1 November, 1860. Oesterr. Währung.”

The value of the bill is stated on its face in seven different languages, German, Italian, Hungarian, Polish, &c., to suit the various populations of the empire.

Mr. Peale read a paper on the stone implements of the Indians of North America, and illustrated it with a numerous collection of specimens from his own cabinet.

Allusion is made in classic writings to an arrow-head of this kind used by an Emperor in some gymnastic exploit in a Roman circus.

Division Fourth. In this department is embraced a variety of articles that are not the least curious and interesting; they are usually the best finished, many of them elaborate in construction and symmetrical in form, and some highly polished; they show that labor and skill were equally taxed in the stone period, rude and impoverished as it may be called, to ornament the person, and to as great an extent as in these days of fashion and refinement.

The devotees of fashion punished themselves by heavy weights carried upon the person, in the form of "gorgets," "canoes," and pendants of slate or other stones, of which, doubtless, they were as vain as our own dames and dandies of bracelets, and chains, and jewelled ornaments.

Beads of quartz, with drilled holes for the string, afford evidence of patient industry that must have been severely taxed, especially as, in many instances, the labor must have been lost by fracture of the material before completion of the article.

Shells and slates were of easier manipulation than the last-named material, and of course most frequently employed in the division under consideration.

Under the head of luxuries, are included the pipes, of the world-wide custom of smoking; among them are the most elaborately executed articles of the stone period. The plainest forms were no doubt made by the means and processes indicated in the preceding part of this paper; but when we take into view the numerous characteristic productions of the mounds, recovered from the hidden repose of centuries untold, we are lost in wonder at the knowledge of nature which they exhibit, and entirely at fault, as to the means of execution which their elaborate construction evinces.

Dr. Emerson described a discovery made by himself some years ago on the tide waters of the Delaware, of a bed of charred human bones, broken up into small fragments, and lying over them many fragments of Indian pipes made of baked clay. A single perfect specimen was of a symmetrical and peculiar form, unlike the well-known forms of Indian pipes discovered elsewhere, inasmuch as its bore was perfectly straight. Dr. Emerson judged these peculiarities to be indications of the greater antiquity and different stirpal origin of the Indians whose remains were here interred.

nig's workmen had washed out gold from the sands of the river Delaware; and a French writer affirms that there is a trace of gold in the sands of the Rhine.

When we consider the uses to which this noble metal is providentially adapted and wisely applied, we cannot but wonder at the apparent waste or misplacement by which so much is irrecoverably lost; and, to all appearance, had as well not been made. Perhaps such inscrutable mysteries in the realm of nature may help us to submit to other difficulties in other parts of the Divine order and government. Of this we may be confident, that the atoms of gold are homogeneously and equably dispersed through the clay or other matrix; but by what natural process, and for what final cause, these fine particles should be thus diffused, seems quite beyond the reach of human philosophy.

The paper thus offered, however deficient and practically unimportant, may afford a diversion of mind, for the moment, from the one idea of the times upon which we have fallen.

Professor Lesley remarked that the ores of zinc seemed more closely allied, geologically, with alumina than with silica, and were therefore by so much the further removed from gold, the normal alliance of which is supposed to be with silica. As all clays are made up chiefly of alumina and silica, derived from the disintegration of tertiary, secondary, and primary rocks in a long backward series of remanipulations, it should not excite surprise if all clays, without exception, should yield minute quantities of gold. And as all the primary metals have gangues containing silica, which enters as an impurity into the manufactured article, probably in the form of silicon, it is likewise almost inevitable that gold should appear with it.